## SIKKIM

## **GOVERNMENT**



#### GAZETTE

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## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

No.296/IPR/2013-14/14

#### **NOTIFICATION**

Whereas the State Government has deemed it expedient and necessary to have uniform and standard procedure for issue of Accreditation / Press Cards to the Journalists through the Department of Information and Public relations (DIPR), Government of Sikkim.

And Whereas keeping this in view the State Government is pleased to issue the following guidelines:

- The Government of Sikkim shall constitute a committee called "the State Press Accreditation Committee (SPAC)" consisting of 7 (seven) members to provide Accreditation to the news media representatives by the Government of Sikkim for the purpose of access of information in the Government and also to news materials, written or pictorial released by the Information and Public Relation Department and/or other agencies of the Government of Sikkim.
- 2. The Secretary, DIPR, Government of Sikkim shall be the Chairman of SPAC and the Director; DIPR shall be the Member Secretary of the SPAC along with 1 (one) representative from the DIPR as member of the SPAC. The other members of the committee shall be 2 (two) representatives nominated by the Press Club of Sikkim and 2 (two) representatives nominated by the DIPR, Government of Sikkim from amongst the editors, reporters, recognized association, national agencies and other organizations of journalists.
- 3. The Secretary, DIPR, Government of Sikkim shall convene the meeting of the SPAC, preside over such meetings and maintain all records and proceedings of their deliberations.
- 4. The SPAC once constituted shall function for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of its first meeting and will continue to function till it is reconstituted.
- 5. The SPAC once constituted shall meet atleast 2 (two) times in a year or more frequently, if deemed necessary by the Secretary, DIPR, Government of Sikkim. The main purpose of



meeting of the SPAC will be to issue the Accreditation Cards to the journalists. Hence, the SPAC will mandatorily meet during the month of March to finalize the issue of Accreditation card for the coming financial year.

- 6. Accreditation cards issued during a financial year would be valid upto the end of the financial year i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March. Normally, renewal of the Accreditation Card and issue of fresh Accreditation Card for the next financial year would be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current financial year. Therefore, all applications for renewal and issue of fresh cards shall be submitted during the said Window Period of 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March of every financial year.
- 7. The eligibility criteria for issue of Accreditation Cards shall be as follows:
  - (i) The applicant should be working in any Media House / news paper / news agency within the territorial jurisdiction of the Government of Sikkim.
  - (ii) The applicant should possess a minimum of 8 (eight) years of experience in the field of journalism and should submit Experience Certificate as a proof of the same.
  - (iii) The application shall be in a prescribed format, duly recommended by the Editor of the Media House.
  - (iv) The Media House which recommends for issue of Press Card should be Registered with the Registrar for Newspapers in India, in case of Print Media. However, this would not be applicable for Electronic / Web Media.
- 8. In order to ensure the importance and sanctity of Accreditation Cards, it is necessary to fix a maximum limit of Accreditation Cards for each Media House. Accordingly the following limit is hereby fixed:

| (1)   | Print Media:  |   |
|-------|---|---|
| (i)   | Daily News Paper:                                   | 5 |
| (ii)  | Weekly / Fortnightly News Paper:                    | 2 |
| (iii) | Monthly / Bi-Monthly / Quarterly / Annual Magazine: | 1 |
| (2)   | Electronic Media:                                   |   |
| (i)   | Television Channels:                                | 5 |
| (ii)  | Radio Channels:                                     | 5 |
| (iii) | Web Media:  | 2 |

- 9. Incase of freelancers the applicant should have atleast 10 (ten) years of experience in the field of journalism and should produce substantial proof before the SPAC along with the application.
- 10. The maximum numbers of Accreditation Card as stated above is over and above the Press Card which the Media House is entitled to.
- 11. As and when the Accreditation Card Holder resigns / removed from a Media House, the Editor of the Media House shall immediately inform the Director, DIPR for cancellation of the Accreditation Card.

- 12. The SPAC reserves the right to accept or reject the application for the issue of Accreditation Card without assigning any reason thereof and the issue of Accreditation Card would be at the discretion of the SPAC and shall not be claimed as a matter of right by anyone.
- 13. The Department shall not issue any new Press Card but will only renew the existing issued Press Card till the press card holders will be entitled for the issue of Accreditation Card. The issuance of Press Cards shall be done in the following manner:
  - (i) The application for renewal shall be in the prescribed format, duly recommended by the Editor / Publisher of the Media House.
  - (ii) The Media House which recommends for renewal of Press Card should be RNI Registered, in case of Print Media. However, this would not be applicable for Electronic / Web Media.
  - (iii) The renewal of Press Card shall be done by the DIPR and SPAC shall not be responsible for the renewal of the Press Card.
  - (iv) Press cards renewed during a financial year would be valid upto the end of the financial year i.e. 31st March. Normally, renewal of the Press Card for the next financial year would be carried out between 1st March and 31st March of the current financial year. Therefore, all applications for renewal of Press cards shall be submitted during the said Window Period of 1st to 31st March of every financial year.
  - (v) The renewal of Press Card would be at the discretion of the DIPR and shall not be claimed as a matter of right by anyone.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

C.C.Wangdi Secretary / IPR

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